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Lifting Up... February 2013



The family and church home of Dr. Richard C. Braun, a resident of Cumberland County for 36 years and member of **Pleasant Hill Community Church**, in Pleasant Hill, TN, who died on Sunday, December 2. He suffered an aortic dissection on Thanksgiving Day and was taken from his home in Pleasant Hill to Cumberland Medical Center in nearby Crossville, TN. He was treated for a week before being moved to Wharton Home on the Uplands Retirement Village campus in Pleasant Hill, where he died two days later. He was 82. Dr. Braun died the way he had lived: with grace, in love, and in peace.

Richard Charles Braun was born in St. Louis in 1930, to T. C. and Viola Braun. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Grinnell College in Iowa and a Doctor of Medicine degree from the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. At Grinnell College he met Gertrude "Trudy" Camp, and at Washington University he and she strengthened their friendship while she earned her nursing degree. They married in 1953.

In 1956 Dr. and Mrs. Braun were commissioned as medical missionaries by the United Church Board for World Ministries, and in 1957 they and their young son arrived in the newly independent African nation of Ghana.

In Ghana, Dr. and Mrs. Braun served together at hospitals in Worawora and Adidome. In addition to caring for patients at hospitals and rural outreach clinics, they trained Ghanaian nurses and medical students, ensuring that their work would continue after they left Africa.

In 1971 Dr. and Mrs. Braun and their children came to Cumberland County for a two-year furlough. His parents had recently retired in Pleasant Hill, and he was drawn to the area by the reputation of the Cumberland Clinic Foundation, which he joined.

At the end of their furlough, Dr. and Mrs. Braun, with their three younger children, returned to Ghana for their last term there. In 1978 they left Ghana, having served the sick and healthy people of that country for 21 years, and moved back to Cumberland County, this time to stay.

Dr. Braun resumed his work with the Cumberland Clinic Foundation. When the CCF closed in 1990, Dr. Braun began private family practice. He retired from private practice in 1993 but continued to volunteer his time and medical skills to people in underserved places, including Native American reservations in North Dakota and Arizona, the hurricane-wrecked coast of Honduras, and a remote town in the Himalayas of Nepal.



UCC News

UCC Newsroom

Headlines from the United Church of Christ

[UCC groups host immigration reform vigils on Ash Wednesday](#)

To commemorate Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the church's penitential season, several United Church of Christ groups and congregations hosted immigration reform prayer vigils Feb. 13



in the Himalayas or Nepal.

He remained on the staff of the Cumberland Medical Center and also accepted the position of medical director at Wharton Home in Pleasant Hill, the town where he and his wife made their home, continuing in that capacity until just last year.

He wrote frequently about health care issues in the *Crossville Chronicle* column "The Lion and the Lamb." He received many awards and honors but was most proud when he met or heard news of any of the thousands of people he had delivered into the world. He was an active member of the Pleasant Hill Community Church and of Uplands Village.

Richard C. Braun is survived by his brother, Theodore A. Braun (a retired minister of the United Church of Christ), and his cousin, Marian Braun Ziebell, both of Pleasant Hill; his wife; his four children and their spouses; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

His family suggests that those who wish to honor his life might make donations to the United Church of Christ Global Ministries (www.globalministries.org) or Uplands Village (www.uplandsvillage.com).



The family and **First Congregational Christian Church** in Montgomery, AL, upon the death of the Rev. Dr. Paul E. Johnson on January 14. Dr. Johnson served as pastor of First Church from 1980 to 1985, and returned in 1988 before retiring in 1993. He was married to Shirley Ann (Williams) Johnson for 55 years and had two children, Paula Lyman and Darryl Johnson.

Paul Edwin Johnson was born in Buffalo, NY and ordained on November 30, 1958 by the Congregational Christian Churches (shortly to become the UCC) at Grace Congregational Church in Manhattan (Harlem), NY. Early in his career, Dr. Johnson served as associate pastor of North New York Congregational Church in the Bronx, NY. He attended Talladega College in Alabama; the Hartford Seminary Foundation in Connecticut; Harvard University, and Auburn University.

He served as a chaplain in the U.S. Army, which resulted in his being awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star for Valor, the Air Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Parachutist Badge. Upon retiring from the Army as a lieutenant colonel, he was employed by the Alabama Department of Mental Health/Retardation as Quality Assurance Coordinator for Community Programs, Division of Mental Retardation. Dr. Johnson was a veteran of the Vietnam War.

Dr. Johnson had held ministerial standing in the Alabama-Tennessee Association since 1974, even before assuming the First Church pastorate, due to his long residence in the Montgomery area.

The family requests contributions be made to the Dr. Paul E. Johnson Education Scholarship Fund at Max Community Credit Union in Montgomery in honor of Dr. Johnson.

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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	1	2

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